

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 063326
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:DJMCCONNELL:KS

APPROVED BY:EUR:JSHINN

EUR/RPM:WSHINN JR

S/S-O:JETHYDEN

-----066206 110459Z /20

O 110335Z MAR 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 063326

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 3688 SENT ACTION SECSTATE MAR 07.
QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 03688

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-L

TAGS: PARM, UK

SUBJECT: FURTHER UK VIEWS ON ERW

1. SOURCES IN FCO TOLD US MARCH 7 THAT AS RESULT OF
INTER-AGENCY DISCUSSION, SENIOR UK OFFICIALS IN WAKE OF
FEBRUARY 24 NAC MEETING WERE INCLINING TO THE VIEW THAT
IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO TRADE RESTRAINT IN ERW
DEPLOYMENT FOR A GENERALIZED CALL FOR RESTRAINT ON THE
PART OF THE SOVIETS IN THE BUILDUP OF THEIR FORCES
CONFRONTING NATO. THIS IDEA, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 063326

PRINCIPALLY AUTHORED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN, RESTS
ON CONVICTION THAT ERW/SS-20 LINKAGE WOULD NOT BE
CREDIBLE TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS AND PUBLICS BECAUSE OF
THE OBVIOUS MISMATCH BETWEEN THE WEAPONS. FURTHER, THIS
LINKAGE WOULD PERPETUATE MYTH THAT ERW, LIKE THE SS-20,
IS A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION. THEREFORE, UNDER
OWEN'S PRODDING THE FCO HAS COME UP WITH IT, THIS SCHEME ENVISAGES

THAT US
WOULD ANNOUNCE DECISION TO PRODUCE ERW AND EUROPEAN
ALLIES WOULD SIMULTANEOUSLY SUPPORT DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE.
AT THE SAME TIME, NATO WOULD INDICATE THAT IT WOULD BE
PREPARED TO FOREGO DEPLOYMENT I/F WIDER MEASURES OF
DISARMAMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED WHICH WOULD REDUCE SOVIET
THREAT, NUCLEAR AND/OR CONVENTIONAL, TO WESTERN EUROPE.
THIS PROPOSAL WOULD GO ON TO ENUNMERATE SOVIET SYSTEMS
WHICH, IF CONSTRAINED, WOULD BE ENTICEMENT TO CONVINCE
ALLIES NOT TO DEPLOY ERW. THE SS-20 AND SOVIET TANKS ON
CENTRAL FRONT WOULD BE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED. HOWEVER,
ACCORDING TO BRITISH SOURCES, HMG DOES NOT FORESEE TYING
TANKS SPECIFICALLY TO MBFR SINCE THAT WOULD INCREASE
DANGER OF THE TRADEOFF "SINKING IN THE VIENNA BOG." IN
DESCRIBING THE ABOVE TO US, FCO OFFICIALS COULD NOT
CONCEAL THEIR CHAGRIN THAT OWEN HAS ENTERED THE ERW
SWEEPSTAKES AT A LATE MOMENT WITH A NEW IDEA.

3. BRITISH WILL DISCUSS THIS IDEA WITH GERMANS IN BONN
ON THURSDAY.

4. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW OPENING THIS DOOR NOW WOULD
CATER TO ALL THE POLITICAL INTERESTS CALLING FOR
DILUTION, DISTRACTION, AND DELAY OF OUR INTENTIONS. IT
WILL BE HARD ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM ACHIEVED BY
RECENT DISCUSSIONS EVEN WITHOUT THIS NEW UK ELEMENT. IF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 063326

IT IS GIVEN A SERIOUS HEARING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE,
RESOLUTION OF ERW ISSUE BEFORE NATO SUMMIT AND UN
SPECIAL SESSION LOOKS DIM.

5. AS WE HAVE NOTED, OWEN IS THE FATHER OF THIS IDEA.
THUS, WE SHOULD DIRECT OUR EFFORTS TO CHANGING HIS MIND
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY WILL BE ON
MARCH 8 WHEN HE SEES THE SECRETARY.

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.

BREWSTER UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DISARMAMENT, CAT-B, NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPLOYMENT, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE063326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPM:DJMCCONNELL:KS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 L
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N780003-0394
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780378/aaaacohc.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 72c218c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3359944
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER UK VIEWS ON ERW
TAGS: PARM, MOPS, UK
To: NATO POSTS MOSCOW MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72c218c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014